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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00489 221449Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 SY-05 MCT-01
AID-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /096 W
----------221451 130247 /46
P R 221327Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5051
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH
SUBJ: REPORTED AMERICAN MERCENARIES DESERTION FROM RHODESIA

1. SUNDAY TIMES CARRIED REUTERS ITEM REPORTING THE DESERTION OF THREE AMERICAN MERCENARIES FROM THE RHODESIAN ARMED FORCES. ACCORDING TO REUTERS ACCOUNT, THREE MEN STOLE A PIPER CHEROKEE LIGHT AIRCRAFT FROM THE PRINCE CHARLES AIRPORT NEAR SALISBURY SATURDAY, FEB 19, AND FLEW EITHER TO BOTSWANA OR ZAMBIA.

2. LOCAL PRESS CORPS HAS BEEN PRESSING US FOR CONFIRMATION THAT PLANE DID IN FACT LAND IN LUSAKA, SOME CLAIMING THEY HAD GOOD SOURCES WHO SAW THE PLANE LAND OR SAW THE MERCENARIES AT A LOCAL HOTEL. GRZ HAS MADE NO APPROACH TO THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE THREE AMERICANS AND INFORMATION
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AVAILABLE INDICATES THAT THE STOLEN PLANE DID NOT ARRIVE LUSAKA. REPORTERS' QUERIES TO GRZ HOME MINISTER MILNER WERE DISMISSED WITH COMMENT THAT STORY IS TOTAL FABRICATION.

3. WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE OCCURRED IS THAT A MISSIONARY PLANE (SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST) DID ARRIVE IN LUSAKA FROM SALISBURY ON SATURDAY AND WAS IMPOUNDED UNTIL ITS PILOT

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WAS ABLE TO STRAIGHTEN OUT A FLIGHT CLEARANCE PROBLEM.
THIS INCIDENT SEEMS TO BE AT THE BASE OF ALLEGED EYE
WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF MERCENARY PLANE'S ARRIVAL LUSAKA.
SIGHTINGS OF MERCENARIES AT THE INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTEL
PROBABLY SHOULD BE LAID TO OTHER CAUSES RUMORS WHICH ARE
MAKING THE ROUNDS. LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, MERCENARIES, DESERTION, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA00489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770061-0346
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770221/aaaaaszq.tel
Line Count: 68
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 57f360c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3266415
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED AMERICAN MERCENARIES DESERTION FROM RHODESIA
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57f360c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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